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Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence ...

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From the
Town Clerk

Centennial Celebration,

JULY 4TH, 1876.

BRADFORD,

MASSACHUSETTS.

CELEBRATION

OF THE

One Hundredth Anniversary

OF THE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

HELD AT

BRADFORD, MASS.,

JULY 4TH, 1876.

Oration of
Harrison E Gardner

HAVERHILL:
GAZETTE BOOK AND JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
1877.

~~AR302~~
WS13196.7.15

1878. Jan. 21,
Gift of
The Town Clerk.

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

At a legal town-meeting held June 13th, 1876, the following votes were passed:

Art. 2d. Voted—to appropriate the sum of Three hundred ($300) dollars for the purpose of celebrating the coming Centennial fourth of July.

Voted—that the following named be a committee to carry out the above vote with power to fill vacancies and appoint sub-committees:

D. Freeman Towne.	Wm. A. Kimball.
Dr. Wm. Cogswell.	Chas. B. Emerson.
James K. Hall.	Wm. Hilton.
George W. Ladd.	Gardner G. Kimball.

Wm. L. Gage.

ORGANIZATION OF THE

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

GEORGE W. LADD, Chairman.
WILLIAM COGSWELL, General Director.
WILLIAM HILTON, Secretary.
WILLIAM L. GAGE, Treasurer.
SAMUEL W. HOPKINSON, D. FREEMAN TOWNE, WM. ALLISON KIMBALL. } Selectmen.
CHARLES B. EMERSON.
JAMES K. HALL.
GARDNER G. KIMBALL.

SUB COMMITTEES.

Committee to select Grounds for the Celebration.

GEO. W. LADD. D. F. TOWNE.
WM. L. GAGE.

Committee to procure a Band.

D F. TOWNE. GARDNER G. KIMBALL.
JAMES K. HALL.

Committee on Singing.

WM. COGSWELL. CHAS. B. EMERSON.

Committee on Salute.

JAMES K. HALL. SAMUEL W. HOPKINSON.

Committee to furnish Stand, Tables and Decorations.

WILLIAM HILTON.

Committee to procure Provisions and superintend Tables.

CHARLES B. EMERSON. JAMES K. HALL.
WM. ALLISON KIMBALL.

Committee to procure Lemonade.

WILLIAM L. GAGE.

Assistant Committee.

SAM'L K. HOLMES. DOANE COGSWELL.
BENJ. F. LEAVITT. NICHOLAS SAWYER.
FRANK JOHNSON. ALDEN B. CHADWICK.
EDWIN G. ELLIOTT.

Committee to arrange Tables and Decorations.

MRS. LABURTON JOHNSON.
" HARRISON E. CHADWICK.
" WILLIAM W. PHILLIPS.
" P. E. PEARL.
" GEORGE W. LADD.
" HARRISON WILLIAMS.
" A. LABURTON KIMBALL.
" SAMUEL B. PERRY.
" WILLIAM COGSWELL.
" ELIZA GOODWIN.
" JOHN B. FARRAR.
MISS LIZZIE PEABODY.
" JULIA A. GOODELL.
" MARY E. WEBSTER.
" HATTIE N. HILLS.

The Committee appointed as Officers of the Day :

Chief Marshal.

MAJOR EUGENE CARTER.

Assistant Marshals.

BENJ. G. PERRY. CHAS. T. RICHARDS.
CHARLES G. JOHNSON. FRANK E. MORSE.

President.

HON. GEORGE COGSWELL.

Chaplain.

REV. J. C. PAINE, of Groveland.

Reader of the Declaration of Independence.

DR. WILLIAM COGSWELL.

Orator.

HARRISON E. CHADWICK, ESQ.

Toast Master.

SAMUEL W. HOPKINSON, ESQ.

Musical Director.

PROF. H. E. HOLT.

PROCEEDINGS.

At sunrise the church bell was rung, and a salute of thirteen guns for the thirteen original States was fired. At noon the church bell was again rung, and the people assembled at the Common in front of the meeting-house, according to previous notice. A procession was then formed by Major Eugene Carter, the Chief Marshal of the day, in the following order:—First, the Groveland Brass Band, followed by the carriage bearing the President of the day, the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, the Chaplain and the Orator; then the Town Officers, the elderly people and invited guests in carriages; then followed the children of the public schools on foot, many of them carrying flags; and as many others of the citizens as chose to join the procession.

At about one o'clock the procession moved up Main Street into School Street about one-half a mile to the grove on the grounds of Bradford Academy, in the rear of the building, where the whole assembly, numbering about fifteen hundred, arranged themselves around the stand provided for the occasion.

At half-past one o'clock the exercises commenced. George W. Ladd, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, addressed the assembly as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

You all well know that we have met here to celebrate this glorious Fourth of July. Every community ought, and every individual should participate in some way. It is a duty we owe to our country, and a duty we can do with pleasure.

There is something grand in being here on this Centennial Year of our National Independence, to do all we can that is patriotic and profitable, for in doing so we can all pledge ourselves anew to cherish the memory of those noble men and women who sacrificed so

much to gain our Independence, and to those that did so much to restore it.

I will not detain you with with any extended remarks, but will say that the Committee of Arrangements have selected one of our honored and esteemed citizens to take charge of the exercises—one whom you all know; one who has been in our midst for nearly fifty years; one who has seen this town grow from a little village to its present proportions; and one that has always had the interest of Bradford and his country nearest his heart. I now have the pleasure of introducing to you as President of the Day, Hon. George Cogswell.

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT.

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN AND FELLOW-TOWNSMEN:

A century since our fathers uttered these words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Upon the Declaration of Independence the thirteen American Colonies continued the war then existing with the mother country, not merely to escape from British oppression but to establish a nation. Our ancestors brought with them from England the great principle that all men have the right to worship God in accordance with the dictates of conscience, and, also, to found a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." These grand truths uttered by John Calvin had been quietly possessing the hearts of men, until they found full expression in the founding of the American Republic. The population of this country was then between three and four millions, engaged in a desperate war with the savages on the west, on the east with the mightiest nation in Europe assisted by mercenary German troops. Now we have a nation of forty millions and not a slave presses our soil, extending from the frozen regions of the north to the warm waters of the Gulf; at peace with ourselves and with all the nations of the earth, while our flag floats proudly over every sea as an emblem of power and of self-government.

We meet to-day to recount our blessings and to give thanks to Almighty God that he did put it into the hearts of our fathers to cross the Atlantic and take possession of a continent and found this great nation on a model far in advance of any other nation in securing equal rights to all.

Fellow-townsmen, our lot is cast in this beautiful town of Bradford, on the south bank of the Merrimack, overlooking the city of Haverhill with its unsurpassed beauty, in the midst of an industrious, thriving and substantial population, with moral, educational

and religious advantages which ought to satisfy the most exacting. With such national and local privileges and enjoyments, let us render praises to our Heavenly Father for his mercies to us, not only as a nation, but also to us as a town; and in addition, on this interesting Centennial anniversary, let us renew our vows of allegiance to our country, resolving to discharge every duty of citizenship in such a manner as shall best promote the true interest of our common country, and thereby of every individual member of this republic.

In behalf of the citizens of Bradford I welcome the government of the city of Haverhill with its citizens; I welcome the town authorities and citizens of Groveland, which for so many years was one with us as a corporation, to the rejoicings and festivities of this occasion. I welcome all citizens, whether from the east or west, or from the north or the south; our country is one,—our duties the same: the fairest country and the truest people the sun in his countless revolutions has ever shone upon. May the blessings of self-government and good order continue to comfort this people and may they continue worthy of these blessings so long as day shall succeed to night.

He concluded by reading an interesting letter from Dr. Jeremiah Spofford, a venerable physician of Groveland, who regretted that he was obliged to decline the invitation to be present.

The Rev. J. C. Paine, of Groveland, the Chaplain of the Day, then invoked the Divine blessing upon the assembly, offering thanks for the great and numerous blessings which as a nation they had received, and praying for their continuance, and that our whole united country might continue in the enjoyment of liberty, peace, and the knowledge of the Lord.

Next in order came the singing of the national air, "Hail Columbia," by a select choir under the lead of Prof. H. E. Holt, with chorus by the assembly. The Declaration of Independence was read by Dr. William Cogswell from the identical sheet that was sent to Bradford one hundred years ago, and read from the pulpit by the Rev. Samuel Williams, then minister at Bradford. It was then voted that this same sheet be read one hundred

years hence, and the Selectmen were directed to govern themselves accordingly.

The President then introduced Harrison E. Chadwick, Esq., their fellow-townsman, as the Orator of the Day, who delivered the following

ORATION.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

The history of the world is marked by the occurrence of events which affect not only the people who are actors in those events, but all succeeding generations. Such an event occurred on the day whose one hundredth aniversary we are now assembled to commemorate. One hundred years ago to-day, stretched along the Atlantic coast were thirteen colonies, on the borders of a continent untraversed by civilization. These colonies, having passed through the period of their settlement and dependence, are now just coming forth in their weakness of numbers and resources, yet in the strength of a mighty purpose, to claim the right in the ranks of the nations of the earth to take care of themselves.

Gladly would they have continued the relations of the child to the parent for a longer period, had not the fostering care of the mother-country been perverted to such an extent that the interests of the infant and struggling colonies were made subservient to the interests of the sovereign power to which they looked for protection. It was not of neglect merely that they complained, but, disregarding the just rights of the people, a system of oppression had been inaugurated, which if continued would

cripple the development of their country and destroy that manhood essential to the prosperity of a people. They had petitioned; they had remonstrated; they had implored a removal of the burden imposed upon them, unjustly as they believed—all to no purpose. They had sought a fair representation and voice in the government to which they owed allegiance; this had been denied them. Having in many instances sought an asylum in the New World from oppression and violence in the Old, the colonists had been compelled to seek protection from a power which had little claim on their gratitude or respect. They were now outgrowing a dependence which was irksome to most, particularly to the Massachusetts colony, who were regarded as the instigators in the rebellion and against whom most of the enactments were made to suppress the opposition to the authority of the British government. The tyranny and arrogance of the royal governors sent across the Atlantic to rule over them hastened on the act of separation.

More than a year of open warfare had passed in the endeavor on the part of the Crown of England to subdue the rebel colonists before the latter could be aroused to take the heroic step that was to sever them forever from their allegiance to the Old World and establish the independence of a nation extending from sea to sea across a continent; a nation with a form of government whose expansive and elastic power for the protection and welfare of the people has stood the test of a hundred years against the assaults of foes abroad and the machinations of enemies at home. This goodly land is our dwelling-

place, and this form of government is our national inheritance.

And we are this day assembled together to express our feelings of gratitude to our ancestors for their heroic deeds and self-sacrifice; and also on our own part to cherish and keep alive that spirit of independence and national honor so characteristic of the early American people: "the spirit of seventy-six."

THE REVOLUTION.

That the people of Bradford fully entered into the spirit of the times one hundred years ago is evident from the record of their acts. Let us for a moment, if we can, go back in imagination to those early times, when the people, as now, were accustomed to discuss in their town meetings the gravest national questions. The people of Bradford, scarcely a thousand in number, were scattered over a territory eight miles in extent along the Merrimack river, pursuing their occupation of tilling the soil. Villages, they had none. They had their East and their West meeting-houses located centrally in each parish, and around them were clustered a few dwellings and perhaps a store for the sale of a few articles of necessity; but not a post-office. And, so frugal in their habits, these, our worthy ancestors, found it necessary at that time to expend only £100 annually to defray all their town charges. The part which they took in the struggle for independence can better be told in their own language than in mine. In the early stages of the troubles, a town-meeting was held in the West meeting-house, Jan. 7, 1773, to act on the following article:

"To see what instructions they will give to their Representative in General Court assembled (if any shall be thought proper) relating to the present difficulties, which the province and this town as part of the community are laboring under, and to act anything they shall think proper when met together to act; and also to see if the Town will pass a vote to concur with the town of Boston in what is set forth in a pamphlet sent to the several towns in this province by said town of Boston relating to the grievances we labor under, and send them an answer according as they shall think proper."

And the vote was to choose a committee to report immediately.

They chose a committee, and adjourned to 6 o'clock, P. M., the same day, to hear the report. Capt. Daniel Thurston was then the town representative, and to him the town through its committee gave instructions as follows; "Sir, we, his majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Bradford, in town meeting legally assembled, this seventh day of January, 1773, take this opportunity to express our very great uneasiness at the infringements on our natural and constitutional rights by many of the late measures of the British administration, particularly of the taxation of the colonies and the granting of salaries to the Judges of the Superior Court, measures adapted, as we apprehend, to lay a foundation in time to render property precarious, and to introduce a system of despotism, which we cannot but view with the utmost aversion, and to which we cannot submit while possible to be

avoided. We recommend it to you as our Representative in General Assembly to use your influence to obtain redress of all our grievances, and in particular to enquire whether the support of the Judges of the Superior Court has been adequate to their services, offices, and station, and if not, to use your influence in obtaining suitable grants and establishments, as may be thought sufficient to remove all pretence that government is not supported among ourselves—which was voted unanimously.

We also vote the thanks of this town to the town of Boston for the care and vigilance they have discovered for the rights and privileges of this province as men, as Christians, and as subjects. Voted, that the town clerk be directed to transmit a copy of these instructions, &c., to the Committee of Correspondence in Boston. Dudley Carleton, Esq., William Greenough, Benjamin Gage, Jr., Thomas Webster, Amos Mulliken,—Committee to make report."

Thus we see that the people of Bradford were jealous of their liberties and prompt to take measures to defend them. Soon after this, anticipating the resort to arms, they voted to build a powder house, May 17, 1773, two years before the war, and stocked it with ammunition, "six half-barrels of powder; bullets and flints proportionable."

The town was represented in the Provincial Congress, which assembled at Concord, Oct. 11, 1774, by Capt. Daniel Thurston, who was also chosen to represent the town in the Provincial Congress held in the following February at Cambridge.

More ammunition was laid in store, and thirty pounds sterling were voted for that purpose, and this before open hostilities had commenced. The enlistment of minute men now commenced, and these were drilled, equipped and paid by the town. The number of hours required for drill was increased from time to time as the emergency seemed to demand, so that they might be ready to contribute their aid when needed. Town meetings now were frequently held, adjourning often to the east or west meeting-house to hear reports from committees, vote supplies and encourage each other. It is also stated that relief was voted to the poor of Boston, in their distress under the seige of the British. The town meeting called May 23, 1775, was an important one. It was the first after the battles of Lexington and Concord. The Massachusetts army had appealed to the town for aid, and the articles needed were stated in a circular from a committee of supplies. The town was also called upon to choose a committee of correspondence, according to the recommendation of the Provincial Congress.

The supply for the army called for was voted and the committee chosen. This committee were instructed to return the names of those persons who deserted the Provincial service, to the county committee, unless they returned to duty. Soon after the battle of Bunker Hill—June 28, 1775—being only eleven days after, another town meeting was held encouraging the re-enlistment of the minute men and promising to pay them. Capt. Nathaniel Gage, with a company of forty men from their own town had just taken part in the battle of Bunker

Hill. It is stated that this company was one of the best disciplined and most effective on that memorable day, having been instructed in military manœuvres by an English deserter, and although much exposed to the enemy, no one was fatally injured. Capt. Gage is said to have given half his property for the cause.

The war of the revolution had now commenced in earnest; there was no retreat save through dishonor and an increase of their grievances. The recent battles had the effect to unite the colonies and arouse them to put forth all their energies to secure their freedom. That Bradford shared in this spirit of resistance and determination to persevere in the cause is fully shown by the frequent votes for supplies. Thus the war was progressing, and as the difficulties between the colonies and the mother country increased, it became a serious question, whether the colonies should unite in declaring themselves independent. This measure was strenuously urged by the Massachusetts patriots, seconded by Virginia. In the midst of these deliberations the records show that Bradford was in full sympathy with them. A town meeting was called June 20, 1776, for the purpose of considering this question. Ten days prior to this a resolution had passed the Colonial Congress, making known their intention to declare the colonies independent. It is noticeable that this town-meeting was not called in the name of his majesty as was formerly the custom. That acknowledgment of allegiance was omitted.

At this meeting a committee was chosen consisting of Thomas Webster, John Burbank, Capt. Nathaniel Gage,

Benjamin Muzzy and Capt. John Savory, to consult and report to the meeting what ought to be done. The meeting adjourned for half an hour awaiting the report of the committee, which is recorded as follows:

"We the subscribers being chosen a committee to form instruction for the representative of this town with respect to the Honorable Congress forming these United Colonies into Independent States, beg leave to make the following report:

To Dudley Carleton, Esq., Representative for the Town of Bradford, in General Assembly:

Sir:—When we consider the Despotic plan of government adopted by the King, Ministry and Parliament of Great Britain to enslave these American colonies; when we consider that instead of redressing our grievances, they have turned a deaf ear to the repeated petitions and remonstrances of all the United Colonies, and have also been and still are, endeavoring to enforce their arbitrary plan upon us, by spilling our blood, by burning our towns, by seizing our property, and by instigating the savages of the wilderness and negroes to take up the cause against us; when we consider these things, it raises our indignation, that we, who have always been loyal subjects to the King of Great Britain, should be so unconstitutionally and inhumanely treated. Such tyrannical impositions and abuses of power we cannot as men submit to. Therefore utterly despairing of a happy reconciliation ever taking place between Great Britain and these colonies, you are hereby desired, as our representative, to use your utmost endeavor that our delegates in General Con-

gress be instructed to shake off the tyrannical yoke of Great Britain, and declare these United Colonies independent of that venal, corrupt and avaricious court forever—provided no proposals for a happy reconciliation be offered, which the honorable congress think proper to accept; and we hereby engage that we will, at the risk of our lives and fortunes, endeavor to support and defend them therein."

This report was accepted by a vote of the town. Here we have the sentiment of this town just two weeks before the declaration of independenc. By this act a new nation commenced an existence, and new duties were involved. Not only must the war be carried on, but a civil government must be provided for. A plan of government for the State was proposed by a resolution of the House of Representatives, Sept. 17, 1776, whereby the House and the Council should join in one body, with equal voice, and adopt a constitution, afterwards asking the towns to assent thereto. This proposition was not acceptable to this town, and after stating their dissatisfaction, the following is an extract from a vote passed October 31, 1776: "But we are willing and desire that the Hon. Council and the Hon. House of Representatives (each acting in their respective capacities,) proceed to form a government for this State, and exhibit attested copies thereof to its several towns for their inspection and approbation, before it is ratified and confirmed." The committee who reported and favored this action on the part of the town were Col. Daniel Thurston, Dea. Thomas Kimball, Benjamin Muzzy, Maj. Benjamin Gage, Jr., and John Burbank.

This town also lent its aid in securing the observance of the State act to prevent monopoly and oppression. Abraham Day, Jr., was chosen to guard the town against the danger arising from internal enemies. It would be impossible to give all the details of the various town meetings, fifty or more in number, held to carry on this war. But the records abound in evidence of the zeal and readiness of the people to do their part, by voting supplies and furnishing men. A few must suffice. Oct. 11th, 1779, voted to hire ten men to go to New York and join General Washington's army; and £1995 were raised for that purpose. June 12th, 1780, voted to hire sixteen men for the Continental army for six months; and on the 28th of the same month, voted to hire four men to serve in the Continental army for six months, and nineteen men to serve in the militia for the space of three months; also voted to raise £12,527 to defray town charges. This was followed, Oct. 12th, 1780, by a vote to raise the sum of 43,844 pounds, 12 shillings and 6 pence to defray town charges. Just before this came a call from the State for 10,750 pounds of beef. The committees appointed in each case to hire the men consisted of twice the number of soldiers required, which would seem to indicate that the task was a difficult one.

Upon these committees are found the names of men whose military titles are evidence that they were themselves engaged in the active service of their country; among them the following: Capt. Nathaniel Gage, Lieut. Daniel Kimball, Lieut. Thomas Stickney, Lieut. Eliphalet Hardy, Lieut. Moses Harriman, Lieut. Phineas Cole,

Adjt. Daniel Hardy, Lieut. Abel Kimball, Lieut. Nathaniel Parker, Lieut. Nathaniel Plumer, and Capt. John Savory.

By a resolution of the General Court, December 4th, 1780, a call was made upon Bradford to furnish 20,642 pounds of beef for the use of the State. In response to this call, the town, on January 3d, 1781, voted to raise the sum of £61,926 to purchase the beef. Thus, in less than six months, the town voted to raise over £100,000 on account of the war; quite a sum although in a depreciated currency. But for some reason not stated, the beef was not forthcoming, and a meeting was called Jan. 23d and a vote passed giving the Selectmen discretionary power to purchase the beef or pay the money in lieu thereof at the rate of $4.50 per pound, so great had become the depreciation of the currency.

The delegate from Bradford to the convention held at Cambridge in 1779 to form a State Constitutiou was Peter Russel, Esq. The new Constitution was accepted by the town after some discussion upon the third article. The first vote for Governor under the new Constitution was 47, of which John Hancock had 32 and James Bowdoin 15.

At this time the feeling against those who opposed the Revolution and left the country during the war, or conspired against it, was very strong; and a vote was passed instructing our Representative to use his utmost endeavors to prevent all such from ever returning to live again in this Commonwealth. After a careful examination of the records, I feel justified in saying there are no instances of disloyalty to the colonial cause on the part of the town,

but rather they were zealous to do their part. Also during the French War of 1755, a company from this town marched to Stillwater, N. Y., under the command of Capt. Wm. Kimball. And since the division of the town, in 1850, when Groveland was set off with half the population and half the valuation, the town of Bradford has well sustained its former reputation, which was put to a severe test during the recent war of the Rebellion. There were some, indeed, who stood aloof, and some who openly opposed the measures taken to preserve the Union. But their opposition was weak amid the great outburst of popular feeling for the cause of the right and the freedom of the oppressed. This feeling was put in active operation by the enlistment of volunteers and the furnishing of supplies immediately on the first act of armed opposition to the government. Bradford did well her part, all that was asked of her, in furnishing men and money. This is fully attested by the amount expended and the debt she incurred for carrying on the war, which is now all paid: but more especially by her thirty-one fallen sons, at whose graves we annually pay the tribute of grateful remembrance.

And now, from the record of war, abundant as it is and imperfectly as I have been able to give it, let us go back, another hundred years, to the first settlement of the town, which may afford some items of interest.

SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN.

The town of Rowley formerly extended from the Atlantic ocean on the east to the town of Andover on the west, and, after passing Newbury on the north, extended to

the Merrimack river. On the south it was bounded by Ipswich and Topsfield, and included nearly all that now constitutes the towns of Rowley, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland and Bradford. Bradford was separated from Rowley by an act of incorporation in 1675. Previous to this, however, in 1658, a committee of Rowley had laid out tracts of land for the Rev. Samuel Phillips, who was the colleague of Rev. Ezekiel Rogers, the first minister of Rowley. Mr. Phillips, Joseph Jewett, John Spofford and others whose names are mentioned divided these lands—about 10,000 acres—among themselves in various proportions, in 1671. These persons were the first settlers of this territory, which, bordering as it does on the river, was at first called Merrimack. Afterwards it was known as Rowley village, and finally received the name of Bradford when it became an incorporated town.

The town was originally laid out in lots running from the river southward. These lots were of different widths, and many of the ancient boundaries still remain, and are discoverable by the course of the fences, especially over the hills. In some cases portions of these lands are occupied by the descendants of the first settlers, whose names in the east part of the town, now Groveland, are the following, in order of lots, beginning at the east end: Joseph Richardson, Jonas Platts, John Hopkinson, Joseph Bailey, Edward Wood, Benjamin Savory, William Hutchens, Ezra Rolf, Samuel Tenney, Francis Jewett, Samuel Wooster, Samuel Stickney, John and William Hardy, Abraham and Daniel Parker, and the Carleton Patent. Then came next in what is now Bradford, the Haseltine

Patent, extending from Johnson's Creek to Chadwick's Ferry, and settled by Thomas Kimball, William Jackson, David Hasseltine, and Shubal Walker; next followed the lots of Thomas West, John Boynton and John Griffin. The extreme west was the Patent of John Day, whose house was the fourth built in the West Parish. On his Patent also settled Nehemiah Carleton, Richard Hale, and Alexander Campbell.

The land at the neck, so-called, was patented to Philip Atwood and John Head, and with them settled Abraham Gage, John Annis and Samuel Kimball. The employment of the people in the early times was mostly agricultural, and many fine farms along the Merrimack attested the fertility of the soil; prominent among them in later times was the farm of David How. In 1670 the first grist-mill was erected on Johnson's creek. The business of tanning leather was commenced early in the West Parish and afterwards more extensively carried on in the East Parish, now almost wholly abandoned. Prior to the introduction of the shoe business, ship building was carried on in several ship yards. Brick making to some extent has been carried on, and is also at the present time. In 1760 a fulling mill was established on Johnson's creek. Upon this stream in former years have been operated grist-mills, saw-mills, tanneries, and a manufactory of twine and thread, all of which have given place to the extensive woolen manufactories in South Groveland, owned and carried on by the Hon. E. J. M. Hale, of Haverhill, and employing 400 or more operatives.

The shoe business as a trade, furnishing shoes far the

market, was commenced by Daniel Hardy about the year 1760, or one hundred years after the settlement of the town. He was followed by others until in both parishes it became the leading and almost exclusive manufacturing business. This business has furnished employment also, to most of the people during the winter months in addition to their agricultural pursuits. At the present time it employs a large proportion of the people of Bradford, although not a shoe manufacturing establishment stands upon her soil.

The immediate proximity of Haverhill and the greater facilities for carrying on the business there have induced the Bradford manufacturers to remove their establishments across the river, which removal was completed about twenty-five years ago. Among the larger business firms in Haverhill may be found those operated by residents of Bradford, viz.: L. Johnson & Co., A. L. Kimball, John B. Farrar, Warren Ordway, Alfred A. Ordway, S. W. Hopkinson, Peter E. Pearl, and John F. Merrill. This easy access to Haverhill over a free bridge has had a similar influence upon all the other trades and occupations of the people. The only stores to be found here are grocery and provision stores, and Bradford has become almost entirely a place of residence, the active business of its people being carried on in Haverhill, and in some instances in Boston, so far as trade, manufactures, and mechanical employments are concerned.

A few statistics showing the increase of the population from time to time may not be out of place here. From lack of census returns I give the Governor vote under the

new constitution in 1780, which was 47; in 1790, 63; in 1800, 115; and in 1810, 219. In 1810 the population was 1369; in 1820, 1650; and in 1850, when Groveland was set off, Bradford's half of the population was about 1300. The most rapid increase has been during the past ten years. The present number is about 2500. This increase has been confined almost entirely to the central portion of the town. When the Boston & Maine railroad was opened to this town in 1837 the village contained but three streets, the Andover road and the Salem road, which unite at the meeting house and extend to Haverhill bridge—excepting the old Ferry street. Since then some fifteen new streets have been opened and more or less built upon. The postoffice system, established about the year 1672, did not give to Bradford a postoffice till 1811.

PROVISION FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

That the first settlers of Bradford took a deep interest in religious instruction is manifest from the early records. One of their number to whom the territory was originally allotted was a clergyman, the Rev. Samuel Phillips, of Rowley. Of the first public worship in the town there seems to be no record. The first religious teacher of whom there is a record was the Rev. Zechariah Symmes, a son of Rev. Zechariah Symmes, minister at Charlestown. He graduated at Harvard College in 1657. At what time he came to Bradford, or Rowley it was then, does not appear. But he must have been the minister here not long after the first settlement, and have decided to make his residence among the people of Bradford, for at the first legal town meeting on record, held Feb. 20th,

1668, it was voted to finish building the minister's house, under direction of Mr. Symmes, and this was seven years before the town was incorporated and fourteen years before the organization of the first church, when Mr. Symmes was ordained, in 1682. The first year's salary was forty pounds, which by the custom of those days was paid in provisions—the necessaries of life.

It would be interesting to present the various steps taken by the town for the formation of the first church. I have only space for a very short quotation, which will show the mind of the people, and it will be observed also that this is a town and not simply a church action, for the church seemed to include the town. The record is as follows: "We, the inhabitants of Bradford, met together at a legal town meeting, 13th March, 1682, in thankfulness to God for his great mercy in setting up his sanctuary among us, do hereby engage ourselves, jointly and singly, and do engage our children after us, as far as we may by our parental authority, to endeavor by our and their utmost power, to uphold the faithful ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ in this town of Bradford so long as we and they shall live." Then follows the agreement with the minister for his support. They had already bought the parsonage land of forty acres. A part only of the covenant of the first church has been preserved, which was signed by fourteen male members. After forty years' service, Mr. Symmes died in 1707. Of his successors there is only time to speak briefly.

During the first half century from the settlement of the town there was but one church, and but two pastors,—the

two Symmes, father and son, both able men and faithful ministers. Immediately following the settlement of the third pastor, Rev. Joseph Parsons, the town was divided into two parishes, the East and West. This was in 1726.

The first minister in the East Parish was the Rev. William Balch, followed by Ebenezer Dutch and Gardner B. Perry, whose three pastorates comprise one hundred and forty-six years. In the West Parish Mr. Parsons was succeeded in 1765 by the Rev. Samuel Williams, a man of much learning and widely known as a literary character in this and other countries. He was elected a professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at Harvard University and left the ministry at Bradford in 1780. Then followed the Rev. Jonathan Allen, whose term of ministerial office was longer than any of his predecessors or successors to the present time, being about forty-six years. From the ordination of Mr. Symmes in 1682 to the death of Mr. Allen in 1827, a period of one hundred and forty-five years, there were but five ministers in the West Parish, being an average of twenty-nine years each. Mr. Allen was the author of the sacred hymn commencing

"Sinners will you scorn the message
Sent in mercy from above?"

Since Mr. Allen's day there have been six ministers to the present time, forty-nine years, averaging a little more than eight years each. Of the ministers, Ingraham, Hoadley, Searle, Munroe, and McCollom, a lack of time forbids me to speak. And while our present minister, the Rev. John D. Kingsbury, has exceeded the average term of office of

his immediate predecessors, may we not hope that his length of days and increasing usefulness may be continued among us as in the good old times. The first meeting house was erected prior to the first town meeting on record, and located west of the centre of the town at the old cemetery. A second was erected in 1705. After the town was divided into the East and West Parishes, the West Parish held possession of the meeting house and the East erected for themselves a place of worship in 1726. Twenty-five years later the West Parish chose a more central location and erected a new meeting house near where the present one now stands, which is the fifth and only one in Bradford. About the year 1800 a small fund was established to aid in the support of the minister, by a donation from Jonathan Chadwick of $1000. This fund has increased from time to time and now yields something over $400 annually.

EDUCATION.

Very little is known about the provision made for the education of the children at the earliest settlement of the town. The Selectmen had authority given them to expend money for "prudentials," and it is reasonable to suppose that instructing the children was one of the "prudentials." The first recorded vote of the town on this subject was in 1701, when the Selectmen were directed to provide a school at their discretion at the town's expense. The next year, however, a small tuition was required; twopence a week for those learning to read, and fourpence for those learning to write, and a portion

of the expense was paid by the town. The teacher, whose name is first mentioned, was Ichabods. There is found the record of a teacher in 1723, by the name of White, who received an annual salary of £24 and 10*s*. After him were Master Hobey and Master Merrel. These teachers taught through the year, alternating from one place to another in different parts of the town. The first school house was built on the meeting house land, year unknown, costing £25. The following is from the record of March 7th, 1774: "'Twas put to vote to see if the town would supply the schools with wood after September next, and so on for the future, and it passed in the negative." In 1780 voted one month's schooling at the school house near John Burbank's. In 1795 is the first record of a school committee chosen in addition to the selectmen and minister, who were a standing committee of schools by virtue of their office. Their names were Capt. Nathaniel Thurston, Ens. James Kimball, Nathan Burbank, and Dea. Seth Jewett. Voted to raise £340 to defray all town charges. Voted two months' schooling, January and February, in the new school house near Rev. Mr. Allen's. About this time an increased interest was manifested in the public schools, and a committee soon afterwards introduced regulations for the more systematic management of the schools. The time of the school sessions was short, and the range of studies very limited. Although the interest in the cause of education had been marked by constant provision for the support of the public schools, yet not satisfied with the school advantages provided at public expense, prominent individuals con-

templated something beyond. The effort was made and Bradford Academy commenced its first term June 6th, 1803, which was within three months from the time of the first meeting of the people to consider the subject of erecting a building. During these three months they had raised the money, erected their building, engaged a preceptor and preceptress, and opened a school with fifty-one pupils of both sexes. The next year the number of pupils had increased to eighty-seven the first term. In this year, 1804, an act of incorporation was obtained. And this was the foundation of one of the first and most widely known female academies in the country. The first preceptor was Mr. Samuel Walker, and he was succeeded by twelve others in less than twelve years. Two of the twelve were natives of Bradford: the Rev. Daniel Hardy, educated at Dartmouth College and preceptor two years, and Richard Kimball, also educated at Dartmouth College and formerly a pupil in the Academy. The last preceptor was Benjamin Greenleaf, whose term of office was almost double the aggregate time of his thirteen predecessors. His labors in the Academy were abundantly successful, and his arithmetics gave him a wide reputation as a mathematician. He also took a great interest in the public schools both of the town and the State. He was one of the founders of the Essex County Teachers' Association. His term of administration continued a quarter of a century, to 1836, when the school was restricted to the education of young ladies. After leaving the Academy he continued teaching and established Bradford Teachers' Seminary, which continued till 1848. The Academy as a

female school was continued under the instruction of the preceptress, Miss Abigail C. Hasseltine, of Bradford, who as a pupil or teacher was connected with this school for fifty years, and only abandoned her loved profession when compelled to do so by the infirmities of age. Among the first pupils were Mrs. Judson and Mrs. Newell, whose connection with the first foreign missionary movement has given to the Academy a wide reputation. It was in Bradford at the meeting of the General Association of Massachusetts, that the proposition of Messrs. Judson, Nott, Newell and Hall to become foreign missionaries was received. It was at this same meeting that the Association instituted "The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions," and elected the persons constituting, in the first instance, that Board. This took place in June, 1810. Also the pupils from this Academy have become the instructors or founders of other similar academies, as Ipswich and Holyoke. Twice have new and enlarged buildings been erected, in 1841 and in 1870, to accommodate this school. Of the present Academy, its benevolent donors, its numerous patrons, its dozen teachers, its hundred pupils, its extended influence, I have not time to speak. Its spacious building is before you, its influence we all acknowledge, and the pleasure of its grounds we are now permitted to enjoy, through the courtesy of him who has been most prominent among its benefactors, the Hon. George Cogswell, the president of the day.

In 1821 Merrimack Academy was established in the East Parish. It has done much for the education of its

people, and now, after some interruptions, is in successful operation.

The change in the system of education in our State has wrought great changes in all the schools in the more populous towns. The old academies so common in the New England towns have given place to the public High School and the lower grades. The districts have been abolished and a system of graded schools introduced. Bradford adopted this system and established a High School in 1866, although there were not at that time in the town five hundred families, the number by law necessitating the establishment of such a school. This school has a four years' course of study and is well sustained. The first newspaper, the Bradford Sun, edited by our High School boys, is a very worthy sheet. In amount appropriated for support of public schools according to the number of scholars between five and fifteen years old, Bradford ranks the sixth in the County and the forty-ninth in the State.

TOWN OFFICERS.

The appointment of suitable men to transact the public business of a town contributes greatly to its prosperity and respectability. And it is but justice to say that the records of this town bear strong evidence of the wisdom and faithfulness of the Selectmen by the numerous votes giving them discretionary power to manage all its "prudentials." And also they bear testimony to the faithfulness of the recording officer from time to time.

The town meeting, from that first one of forty-one persons in 1620 which was held on board the Mayflower to the

present time, has occupied an important place in our form of government. The people are recognized as the source of power, and it is in these meetings that they exercise the greatest freedom of speech and action, not only in conducting their own local affairs, but in making their influence felt by the general government. Upon the character of the men who take the lead in these meetings, and the people who sustain them, depends the prosperity and development of the local municipalities and through them the State and the Nation. The exercise of this power is a most sacred trust, a people governing themselves. Our rulers are our servants, who are expected to carry out the will of the people as expressed through the voice of the majority in these town meetings.

Our liberties were established by the heroic deeds of our ancestors; they were defended and confirmed by the blood of the patriotic dead; and to this generation is entrusted the duty of preserving and perpetuating that which we have inherited. How can we better do this than by exercising that lofty patriotism which knows no locality except that for the interests of the whole; by diffusing among the people the treasures of knowledge which is power; and by encouraging the practice of virtue by word and by deed. Do we complain of the corruption of our rulers, we have only to look around among us to find that this is but the reflection of the corruption of the people at home. As the fountain can never rise higher than its source, so the rulers of a representative form of government can never be more pure and patriotic than the masses of the people whom they represent. Our rulers

are made such but temporarily, and if they are not faithful to the trust confided to them, it is the fault of the people to continue them in that trust. In fact among a true, a virtuous and high-minded people it is impossible for the demagogue to continue long in power. Of the duties of the hour, retrenchment, reform, economy, a correction of the abuses of public patronage, and maintaining a sound currency, &c., I have not time to speak.

Our republic is yet young. Many dangers lie before us. It is possible for us to lose our liberties. The Commonwealth of Rome continued for nearly five hundred years. She went on conquering and exacting tribute from every new State, until the city of the seven hills became the mistress of the world. Everything paid tribute to Rome, till she fell by the weight of her own greatness, which led to her own corruption. Everything was drawn from the people for the emolument and glory of the Roman capital and nothing but a name extended to them.

Such is not our policy. It would destroy our republic in less than twenty-five years. Policies develop faster in our day. Then let ours be the policy that disseminates; a parental policy, that extends the strong arm of the central government all over the land, not to exact tribute from the people, but to scatter among them the blessings of personal liberty, encouraging the weak, raising up the fallen, and allowing the oppression of none. Let our rulers go up to the capital, not in regal splendor, but in republican simplicity; not for the aggrandizement of themselves, but as the guardians of liberty for millions yet to be.

The Amphion Glee Club of Haverhill then sang songs appropriate to the occasion, and national airs were played by the band. The well spread tables were next visited and the wants of the inner man attended to. The social features of the hour were evidently enjoyed by all, and it was manifest by the abundance provided that the committee on provisions had not neglected their duty.

After the collation toasts and speeches were the order of the day, and Samuel W. Hopkinson, Esq., acting as Toastmaster, read the following sentiments, to which spirited responses were given:

I. *The President of the United States.* May he ever be inspired with wisdom from on high, that he may guide the Ship of State with an eye single to the glory and honor of our country.

Responded to by Hon. Henry Carter, of Bradford.

II. *The Day we Celebrate.* May the same feelings of patriotism that prompt us to celebrate to-day go down with generations to follow through other centuries.

Responded to by Rev. John C. Paine, of Groveland:

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

We have reached an interesting period in our national existence; and as we gather to-day around our sacred altars, our first feeling should be that of gratitude to Him, who was evidently with our fathers in the days of conflict and peril; and who has ever watched over the people in their prosperity. Next to that Providence whose smile was upon our fathers on the battle-field and in the council-chamber, we should remember those who stood firm for the cause of freedom, and went forward with firm step and a martyr's zeal, in the noblest cause that shines in the history of the world, to achieve for themselves and their posterity political and religious liberty. For, through their agency, we have a government modeled more nearly to accord with what man's nature requires than any other. Under this government we have prospered; and standing as we do to-day on free American soil, looking back upon our history for a century, we may present our country to the world, and say, as Webster said of Massachusetts, "There she stands, look at her."

From a poor, bankrupt colony, we have risen to the second commercial nation in the world. From a population of three millions we may boast now of forty millions. From being confined to the Atlantic seaboard, with the ocean on one hand, and savages and a wilderness on the other, we now stretch our arms from sea to sea, with cities and villages springing up on every side. Literature, general intelligence and religion have everywhere kept pace with other improvements, and we can hardly appreciate the present and prospective greatness, and consequent influence of our growing Republic. Every vision we take of it deepens the impression of its importance. Great enterprise marks the character of our people. Agriculture, manufactures and commerce, schools and public buildings, and houses of worship, all testify to our matchless enterprise. If we remain true to our political and religious principles, and use with faithfulness our resources and elements of power, taking broad views of duty and obligation, we may expect still to progress with greater rapidity than in the past, and that our institutions will be copied in other lands, and that we may exert a decisive and benign influence on the destinies of the world.

III. *Our Public Schools* The broad foundation on which our national temple was built.

Responded to by Herbert I. Ordway, of the School Committee:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is not necessary for me to go into an extended account of our schools to-day. You all know what they are. A great many of you were present at the late High School Exhibition, where the scholars spoke for themselves far better than any one could speak for them, and it is in this way that you must become acquainted with the schools. I am sorry to notice that the people in this town seem to have so little personal interest in the schools. You appropriate four or five times as much money for them as for any other one purpose, and are content to put this money into the hands of three men to expend as they please, and are willing to depend for your knowledge of the result upon what your children say and what you hear upon the street. This is not as it should be. All of you, and especially those of you who have children at school, should make it a point to visit the schools once in a while and judge for yourselves of the methods and discipline of the teacher and of the success of each. Then you will be able to form an intelligent idea of our schools and the effect upon both teachers and scholars cannot fail to

be beneficial. Those of you who may follow my advice will then find that one of the greatest difficulties which our teachers have to contend with is the frequent and often unnecessary absences of some of the scholars. I cannot speak on this subject too strongly. If the absent scholar were the only one suffering from the absence, the evil would be less, but the effects are felt more or less by the whole school. I hope you will guard against this evil in the future. Send your children to school every day unless it is absolutely necessary that they should remain at home, and be assured that they will learn as much in one year of punctual attendance as in three years devoted half to school and half to something else.

IV. *Our Revenues.* May the future collections of the government be equal to the payments of the people.

Responded to by Hon. E. B. George, of Groveland:

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The subject of the toast to which I am expected to respond, will hardly be considered an interesting one, as no measure that calls upon us to put our hands in our pockets and pass out our money without at once receiving a tangible equivalent in return, can be considered agreeable to any one of us. What more uninteresting object can possibly be presented to our fellow citizens when they return from a visit abroad, loaded with rare and curious articles, than an officer of the Revenue. The lady who has filled her trunk with "a love of a bonnet," costly lace, rich silks and velvets; the gentleman who has stowed away among his wardrobe a few boxes of choice cigars, a beautiful present for the girl he left behind him, or the wife and children as precious as his own life, all think of him with fear and trembling. And not an importer in the land enters a custom house with his bag of gold, who does not wish that in some way this payment of duties could be evaded or abated. Yet all these are required to contribute to swell "our revenue."

The wish is expressed that "the future collections of the government may be equal to the payments by the people." This good time is almost upon us, for it appears by a report recently made in the Senate of the United States that the percentage of loss upon the money collected and disbursed by the government has been less during the present administration than during any preceding one since the organization of the government. And not only is the percentage of loss very much less, but it also appears that while the amount the government collects and disburses has greatly in-

creased, yet the total loss during the present administration has been less than it was during the administration of Martin Van Buren, Andrew Jackson, or James Monroe. Not a bad exhibit with which to enter upon the second century of our national existence.

I have alluded to the general reluctance with which revenue dues are paid. But when we reflect upon the value of our institutions, it would seem as if we should cheerfully contribute to their support. Consider for a moment their cost. We all have a realizing sense of what it cost of blood and of treasure, of agony upon the battle-field and among the loved ones at home, to preserve our free institutions during the war of the rebellion. From history we obtain some idea of the toil and suffering cheerfully endured by our forefathers in founding this Republic and in waging the war for Independence. But this is not all. A Republic cannot be made in a day; it cannot be created by a series of resolutions, nor by a declaration. It was not that softly beautiful autumn day, when the apple dropped, fully ripe, from the tree into the lap of the waiting husbandman, that produced the apple. That was perhaps the least important of all the preceding days of spring and summer, sunshine and rain, during which it grew and matured. So it was not that one day, a hundred years ago, upon which the Declaration of Independence was promulgated, that made our Republic a possibility. For that, all the preceding days, stretching back through the one hundred and fifty years, were necessary, during which our forefathers were becoming inured to toil and hardships of every kind—were learning the art of war by defending themselves from a savage and wily foe—were perfecting themselves in the science of self-government by assembling in town meetings to discuss public affairs, and by gathering together to devise ways and means for founding and maintaining schools and churches. No other nation ever had such a training as this, and therefore it is no marvel that there are so few Republics to-day. More than this, our fathers came here bringing with them all that was best in the customs and the laws, the civilization and the religion of the motherland—the best she had been able to acquire during seven and a half centuries. So, then, the institutions that to-day bless this nation are the ripe fruit of all the toil and the sufferings, the study, the heroism and the blood-shed of a thousand years. Such being their cost and their value, how zealously should we strive to preserve them unimpaired, how careful should we be that the ballots that silently drop from our hands, freighted with the nation's destiny, represent all that is best and purest in the civilization and Christianity of the age.

V. *The Battle of Cowpens.* May Americans always beat in Cowpens, calf-pens, pig-pens, authors' pens, and all other pens.

Mr. Warren Ordway was called upon to respond for American Agriculture, which he thought had made as much progress during the past century as had been made in other departments of American industry. The chemical analysis of soils, underdraining, and the improved methods of cultivation by the use of labor saving machinery, market gardening, milk farms, cheese factories and cattle husbandry, the establishment of agricultural schools and colleges for the education of our young men in scientific farming, when taken together with the gigantic operations of the farmers in the Western States and California, show an enterprising progress that is fully up to the American standard. The production of cotton, rice and tobacco in our Southern States has been developed to a great extent during the century that is past, and these productions for a long series of years furnished the principal medium of our European exchanges. American agriculture is still in its infancy, as another one hundred years will show, when the now deserted farms of New England will be rejuvenated and brought into successful and profitable cultivation.

VI. We have heard from the old block; now let me introduce to you a chip of the same, who has strayed so far away from his father's profession as to become a lawyer.

Responded to by C. F. Payne, Esq., of Groveland:

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW CITIZENS OF BRADFORD:

Although I had some intimation that I should be called upon to say a few words to-day, I only learned at the moment I heard it read, the nature of the toast to which I was to respond.

If, as your toast-master has been so polite to say, I am indeed a "chip of the old block," I am very glad and proud of it, and I trust I may live long enough, and improve sufficiently, to be a credit to

the spotless ancestry, which it has been my great good fortune to have. But I will not take up your time with a genealogical dissertation. As I am in some sense a representative of the younger portion of the community perhaps it would be in good taste to particularly address that particular class; and any other day than the one we celebrate on this occasion, I would do so. But, Mr. President, upon the anniversary of the birthday of our country's independence, it behooves us, I think, to forget all class distinctions of every sort, to know no age, no youth, no sex, or color, and no North or South. To feel for once the beauty and the glory of the great fraternal tie, which binds us heart to heart, and hand to hand, each time we recollect our common parentage. * * * It is a common thing, my friends, for men to rail at politicians—to sneer and jeer at what they call the dirty pool of politics. And yet I dare to stand up here to-day and say, indeed, insist, that men not only have a moral as a legal right to mix in politics, but that it is the *duty*, most absolute and manifest, for every one who loves his country and desires his country's good, to be a politician. Is legislation or the code of laws corrupt? See to it that you do your part to make them pure! Are taxes over high and legislation onerous? Who levies taxes, and who makes the laws?—the sovereign people through their reprsentatives! Do scheming, unsafe men usurp the place of honor, and the treasury keys? Do thieves break through and steal? Let *honest* men like *you*, and *you*, my friends, just be on hand and plan and vote at the appointed time for better and more honest persons for custodians! And isn't after all the trouble with yourselves, or do you all attend the caucus and primary meeting faithfully? I tell you Mr. President and fellow-citizens, the caucus underlies the cabinet and the legislature after all.

But as the time is short, I must confine myself to topics of a different sort, and leave unsaid a hundred things that should somehow be brought straight home to every citizen of this free and equal country, politically speaking. I feel the compliment you pay to me to-day in asking me to speak, because I am myself, in every nerve and fibre of my being, American. My father's father fought with Washington. My father in the great rebellion held a commission signed by John A. Andrew, as a chaplain in our Union army. I was myself a soldier in that same great war. And though another of my family once had the great temerity to strike, indeed, knock down the boy who had a hatchet and never told a lie—who afterwards became the father of his country,—this same impetuous, hot Virginia colonel was afterwards a friend and faithful soldier of that same great chief. Why should I not exult to see my country's

growth and glory. * * When one day that wonderful battle cry went up, anticipating liberty to a race, and Union one and indissoluble, what a noble, new and untried page it opened up to the historian of the future! unprecedented and anomalous! Ploughshares were lelt for swords, and pruning-hooks were beaten into spears. The hum of peaceful industry was deadened in an hour by the feet of a myriad citizen soldiers marching southward. The blast of the bugle and the roar of artillery were the orchestral voices which sang the grand and terrible symphony of life against life. When Sumpter's blood-stained braves struck the earth, that shock was *felt* in every Northern mother's heart. Oh! food for pride and glory in America's patriotism was the beginning! fitful, fierce and terrible the struggle; but with the help of God, and the right on our side, the *end* victorious came at last. Scarred and decimated marched our armies, but four million freemen, looking northward, sang to Heaven their escape from chains and slavery. And though our private wounds were many, deep and bitter, our Union was preserved! Where sleep the brave to-day? Their bones whiten upon the hillsides of Virginia and Eastern Tennessee; their blood mingles with the lagoons of Florida, and the bayous of Louisiana. Forgotten and undistinguished as they seem, they died upon the field of honor, and their self-sacrifice and noble daring shall be written upon the brightest page of History. What though no costly monument points out their resting-place? From Massachusetts to Oregon, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, pine tree and cataract, and ocean, blending harmoniously, sing the golden glory of their lives and death. And their names, their fame, their deeds, their destiny and memory shall be forever green in the hearts of their grateful fellow-countrymen.

VII. *The Ladies* The last and best work of Nature:

"Her 'prentice hand she tried on man,
And then she made the lasses, O!"

Responded to by Charles B. Emerson, Esq.:

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

Deeming it as I do a signal honor to be called to respond in behalf of true womanhood, I with pleasure comply. Sir, I trust no careful student of national history—either of the Old World or the New—can fail to perceive the potent power, and influence, woman has infused in national life in all ages. When in retrospect of one

hundred years ago, we behold the infant America of 1776 cradled upon the bleak and unknown shore of the Plymouth of New England, surrounded by cruel and treacherous savages in ambush, and call to mind the terrible sufferings, cruelty and privations endured, it is no wonder that the very spot becomes sacred ground and Plymouth Rock a national legacy. Mr. President, with this glorious old flag of freedom fluttering in the breeze about our heads, emblematic of thirty-eight free and independent States, securely united in bonds of fraternal brotherhood—a glorious triumph of heroic sacrifices filling our hearts with exultant joy—and bequeathing to us all that makes a nation truly a nation—freedom of action, freedom of thought, freedom of speech, we celebrate the hundredth birthday of the most benignant government under heaven, and the "Mistress of the World." Mr. President, for all these blessings to no one source are we more indebted than to woman for the moral vigor she has infused into the veins of our national life. In closing, Mr. President, alow me the sentiment—

Ladies of Bradford—Noble representatives of a free and independent People, and a pure National life—eminent alike for their Virtue, Intelligence and Piety.

VIII. *The Groveland Band.* Although young, yet wonderfully perfected.

Music by the Band.

IX. *The Town of Groveland.* A rib taken from our side; although young in years, yet prosperous and full of beauty and interest.

Responded to by Charles Stickney, of Groveland.

X. *George Washington.* "The first in peace; the first in war; and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Responded to by William Hilton, of Bradford:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is difficult to respond to such a sentiment as this, when we bring to mind all that has been said and written on the life and character of Washington. But there are four points so marked in his character that it is well to bring them to view as often as possible; certainly on this, the centennial anniversary of the country, he may almost be said to have created. First, his undying love of

country; second, his unbending integrity; third, his firmness of purpose; fourth, his trust in the God of Nations. It was said of him that he was accustomed to retire morning and evening and pray to his Heavenly Father for his protection and guidance. And the martyr President, Lincoln, the preserver of the country, asked the prayers of the people, that he might have the help of Almighty God, to carry through the great burden placed upon him. Well has it been said of Washington, that "No country can claim him as their own; he was a boon to mankind, a gift to the world." Happy, proud America, the lightnings of heaven yielded to your philosophy and the temptation of earth could not seduce your patriotism.

XI. *The Town of Bradford.* Who can speak for the Town of Bradford so well as Towne himself?

Responded to by D. Freeman Towne:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am really placed in a very unfortunate position in attempting to say anything for the town of Bradford after so complete a gleaning of the field by our orator of the day. I shall therefore be compelled to take a broader field—that of our own country. It is with pardonable pride, on this centennial anniversary of our nation's birth, to behold her as she stands to-day, one of the brightest stars in the galaxy of nations, the future hope of millions of our countrymen and the asylum for the oppressed of other nations. One hundred years have rolled away since the corner stone of this government was laid. We were then weak, yet nurtured by the approving smiles of Providence, we have since grown to the strength and perfection of a great and mighty nation. Our territory then comprising but thirteen States thinly populated with three millions of people confined to the Atlantic coast, now embraces thirty-eight with forty-four millions, having a government of their own, but by Federal compact united to form one powerful nation, whose influence is felt to the remotest part of the world. What astounding improvements characterize the age in which we live. Improvement succeeds improvement, and the invention of to-day supplants that of yesterday. No project is too bold for the enterprise of the present generation. Our commerce at the beginning of the late war, left no sea unexplored; the sails of our ships whitened every ocean; the commercial enterprise of our merchants visited every bustling mart of the known world. Our railroads spread out their net work and draw in closer union different portions of the country and unite as by bands of iron distant cities and states; the press, the mightiest engine

ever invented by the genius of man, throws off its impressions with the rapidity of thought, and the fire horse, impatient of restraint, stands ready to convey them to the remotest hamlet of the land; the mystic wire, as if reproaching the sluggish power of steam, threads its way to encompass the globe and to urge on with electric force the progress and improvement of the age. Want of time forbids me to note the marvellous improvements in the various departments of mechanical art, in the manufacture of cloth, in the art of printing and electro-magnetism since the days of our Franklin. It is with astonishment that we behold the wonderful perfection in the application of steam since its discovery by Fitch and Fulton. Think of it as it drives our cars over sixty thousand miles of railway, and also despite wind and wave, tide and storm, propels the thousands of steamboats which plow our navigable waters, and turns the machinery of the world. Its magic power gives new direction to energy and capital, brings distant places into proximity and connects them by bands which no party animosity, no sectional prejudices or civil discords can ever sunder. Now, Mr. President, the hours of this glorious day are passing, and long ere the recurrence of another centennial every participant of this will have passed away, but may the same principle that actuated the founders of our government and was incorporated into its formation flow down to the remotest stages of posterity—that the next centennial will still find this a united Republic whose "God is the Lord."

XII. "*The Orator.*"

Responded to by Harrison E. Chadwick:

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

We celebrate the deeds of our ancestors. We look back with pride to the history of the settlement of our country, while we trace its rapid growth, and congratulate ourselves upon the achievement of our liberties. We see a continent, given up to the abode of the savage of the wilderness, transformed into the abode of civilization and plenty. We see how our enemies abroad and at home have been overcome, and made to acknowledge our power and freedom: how the slave has been set free, and raised to citizenship. Yet while all this and more, that I have not time to enumerate, has been accomplished, there is much left to be done. Our ancestors have done their part and left us. It is ours to continue what they have commenced, and to preserve what they have established. Can we say that the work is complete while we have an enemy in our midst that has done more to check the progress of our people than the

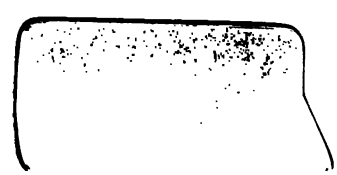
wild Indian, or tax levying parliament of Great Britain? an enemy that in defiance of "Maine Laws," widows' sighs and orphans' tears, stalks over our land, leaving only ruin in his path? Yes, we have an enemy to conquer. King Alcohol must be overcome, and there is a duty awaiting each one. The first duty in a temperance reform is for each one to begin at home at once. Every reformer must strive to be himself what he would have others become. It is useless for our legislators to enact laws against the selling of liquors, while they themselves within twenty-four hours of their enactments, in many cases, go out and break their laws by their purchases. It is impossible for the seller of liquor to break the law alone. There must be a buyer; and until our temperance laws can have the moral support of our legislators and all good citizens the traffic and consequent ruin will go on. If, as statistics show, this is the worst enemy in our midst, and the cause of more crime and ruin than all else combined, then let us meet the foe manfully, and achieve a victory greater than that we this day celebrate.

The ceremonies at the grove were now concluded. Among the guests present from Haverhill were ex-Mayors Levi Taylor and Alpheus Currier, ex-Alderman James F. West; John B. Nichols and Thos. J. Taylor.

The decorations and display of flags in the various streets were numerous, and many of them attractive. At the residence of John Davis was a beautiful centennial decoration, embracing portraits of General and Martha Washington, the descending dove amid numerous flags, and the mottoes, "Our flag in honor shall wave"—"Loudly pealed the old bell"—"Malice toward none, Charity for all." United with these was a combination of flowers, wreaths, and ferns. The residence of Jacob Kimball, near the Common, the "Old Tavern" of the days that are past, was decorated tastefully with the stars and stripes. There was a handsome display of flags and tri-colored draping by Samuel W. Hopkinson, and an elegant decoration of the residence and grounds of James K. Hall, with flags and streamers of red, white and blue, combined with Chinese lanterns supplying an illumination

in the evening. The residences of many other citizens were more or less decorated by the display of flags or otherwise, among them may be named, Leverett W. Tyler, A. L. Kimball, B. R. Downes, Justin Lawrence, Wm. Cogswell, A. S. Hodgkins, Mrs. Joseph Pearsons, Frank H. Kimball, Rev. John D. Kingsbury, Dr. George Cogswell, Warren Ordway, B. G. Perry, Leverett Kimball, John B. Farrar, J. W. Woodside, Sylvester Doloff, Geo. L. Kelley, Lieut. E. E. Bradbury, U. S. N., and the Postoffice.

At sunset the church bell was rung, and a salute of thirty-eight guns was fired by a detachment of the Mass. battery. A display of fireworks in the evening closed the observance of this Centennial Fourth of July.



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